myleled a combination for the purpose of buying servation, he afterward consented to accept an iment from the Department of War. bearing this reservation, be afterward consented to accept an appearament from the Department of War. bearing that May 26, 1857, for an examination with a view to a sale of the military reserve at Fort Repley, in the same vicinity, thus giving him an official character for performing the same duties that in a like instance he was already engaged to violate. In this manner his efficial engagement concluded and obliged him to abstance from opposing a faithful decharacter of the like duties by others, and especially not to be complicated in any interest derivable from such sales. The danger of such interference for the reason that an official character in connection with the same subjects may be inferred to carry an increased and improper infinence against so canstant a policy has been too often encodemned to be left in any doubt. A marked in condemned to be left in any doubt. A marked in stance of it occurred in the recent Administration of President Pierce, resulting in a removal of Governor Reder from the office of Governor of Kansae for an alleged complicity in the purchase of certain Indian lands in that territory. In that case, however, the purchase of the land had no authority whatever, until by the very terms of the contract it had been first autimited to the President and approved by him.

Gov. Reeder had no official authority whatever ever such sale of Indian lands; and although he then made a purchase at a price quite adequate, it was

then made a purchase at a price quite adequate, only conditional, and was to depend for its validity of the subsequent approbation of the Executive. The is shown by reference to the correspondence of that functionary with Mr. Marcy, then Secretary of State. So nice and delicate was President Pierce's sensibility to this official impropriety, although a large portion of the public were not able to discover the force of his reasons, that is a special Executive communication of Jan. 24, 1856, he animadverted on it in the following

language:

"In other respects, the Governor, instead of exercising constant visitance, and putting forth all his emergica to prevent or counteract the tendencies to like ality, which are prone to exist in all imperfectly-organized and newly-associated communities, allowed his attention to be diverted from efficial obligations by other objects, and himself set an example of the violation of iaw, in the performance of acts which rendered it my duty in the sequel to remove him from the office of Califf Executive Magistrate of the Territory."

But Mr. Mather's fault was more flagrant. He was But Mr. Mather's fault was more flagrant. He was already one of a combination, formed, if not to prevent a fair and equal sale, to engroes its benefit to his association. Under such circumstances, he sought and accepted an appointment which put Fort Snelling in the very path of his daties. His combination contemplated the purchase of Fort Snelling from Major Eastman, one of the Commissioners who was afterward to be associated with him in the sale of Fort Ripley. He thus openly violated and prostituted his efficial duty, and made his official authority a meaning the facilities of the contemplate which assuming to be clothed Ripley. He thus openly violated and prostituted me official duty, and made his official authority a means of political advantage, while assuming to be clothed with it for the public good.

Mr. Mather, from modesty or some other cause, in

Mr. Mather, from modesty or some other cause, in his ewn testimony, does not speak of himself with the consequence that justly belongs to him in the transaction. It will be seen by referring to the testimony of Dr. Graham that the combination of John C. Mather and Richard Schell to buy the Fort Snelling reservation was complete while these two gentlemen were at Washington, and before Dr. Graham was admitted. It may be inferred that at this time they bore the same amiable and business relations to each other and to the transaction that they did subsequently; that Mr. Mather was the projector and active manager of this Mather was the projector and active manager of this alose corporation, and that Mr. Schell was, as he de-acribes himself, ripe for speculation, and abounding in confidence in the judgment and enterprise of Mr. Ma-

Mr. Mather permeates the whole transaction. He begins at the beginning, and ends only with the conclusion. He ingeniously ascertained, what was known only to the Department of War, that Fort Sneiling was to be sold. He first projected and created the combination—Mr. Schell being only his second and auxillary. He admitted Graham into the combination. He authorized Graham to engage Steele and incorporate him into the combination, and for this purpose sent Graham abroad on his distant and difficult mission. But he did it so cautiously that in the first instance Steele was not allowed to know who were his senseignes. He observed this caution afterward, for beginning, and ends only with the stance Steele was not anowed to know how were managed as secondates. He observed this caution afterward; for although Graham was determined on investing, but without apparent money to do it with, Mather, in the contract of purchase between himself, Steele and Graham, entered into before the Fort Snelling reserved. Graham, entered into before the Fort Snelling reservation was bought, consented to describe Graham as catified to one third, when his actual interest was only one-ninth—entirely to hide Schell from the transaction. He received the successful Graham returning from his mission to Minnesota at New-York, and thence Graham came on to Washington to accompany Mr. Heiskell to Minnesota. In the mean time, he had sought and obtained from the Secretary of War the kindred appointment for the examination and sale of Fort Ripley. He was present at St. Paul, consulting with Steele and Graham in regard to the purchase of the Fort Snelling reservation, while seeming only to with Steele and Graham in regard to the purchase of the Fort Snelling reservation, while seeming only to be on his official way to Fort Ripley. He returned from Fort Ripley in time to be present at the sale of Port Snelling. He even wrote the first agreement for this object, with his own name and interest kept carefully out of right, before Mr. Heiskell commenced using the "quire of paper" he afterward applied to the same object. He furnished all the money to be paid into the treasury; and having received on the 10th July, on the authority of the Secretary of War, \$475 for this brief reason of public sesvice, he was able to telegraph to Mr. Steele that the sale of the Fort Snelling reservation was confirmed; while the Hon. Robert Smithwas almest at the same moment at the door of the Department protesting that it was impossible such a sale had been made, because no one had ever heard

of it.

The legal result is, that Mather's connection with the sale of the Fort Snelling Reservation tains the whole transaction. His owninterest is wholly defeated by his complicity in it in heaf faith of his collected days. y his complicity in it in bad faith of his official duty.

by his complicity in it is now reason is invalid, because schells interest for the same reason is invalid, because he has permitted Mather to be his agent and representative. It cannot be doubted that the other purchasers had a knowledge of Mather's official authority.

There seems but one means of public and private justice on an occasion like this—not in money, for to the public this transaction is inconsiderable, but to chastice so much incompetence and indecency in office all official transactions, intelligent, equal and make all efficial transactions, intelligent, equal and honest; and that means is to vacate the whole sale, repaying to the purchasing association its principal and interest.

The Committee has thus discharged its duty, an un-

becant one, in reference to the subjects committed its examination by the House, and respectfully su mits for its consideration the accompanying resolutions.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

MR. MORRILL'S LAND BILL.

From Our Own Correspondent. WASHINGTON, Saturday, April 24, 1858.

The remark of THE TRIBUNE'S special correspondent, that Mr. Morrill's Land bill is "the wiscet and most useful measure proposed in " Congress," is scarcely an exaggeration, if we take into view the immense and far-reaching advantages that may accrue to the country if the provisions of the bill are carried out faithfully in accordance with its spirit and design. As in some respects the bill, as it passed, was different from the report of it sent to the Associated Press, I will briefly recapitulate its features. It grants to the several States 5,920,000 acres of land, to be appor-Sioned to each State-a quantity equal to 20,000 acres for each Senator and Representative, to which the State is now entitled. This, for example, would give Massachusetts 260,000 acres, Vermont 100,000, New-York 700,000, and Ohio 460,000. benever there are public lands in a State worte 31 25 an acre (the value to be determined by the Governor of the State), the quantity to which the State shall be entitled shall be selected from such ands. To States in which there are no public ands of the value of \$1 25 an acre, the Secretary of the Interior is directed to issue land scrip to th amount of their shares in acres, said scrip to be sold by the States, and the proceeds to be applied to the se and purposes prescribed in the act. other uses or purposes whatever. All the expenses of the management and sale of the lands are to be paid by the States out of their own treasuries, so that the entire proceeds of the lands given in the United States shall be applied to the purposes of the

The money derived from the sale of these lands shall be so invested as to constitute a perpetua fund, the capital of which shall remain forever un diminished and the interest of which shall be inviola diminished and the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated by each State to the endowment, support and maintenance of at least one College, where the leading object shall be, without excluding scientific or other classical studies, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the Legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several purposits and of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life. If any portion of the fund be diminished or lost it shall be replaced by the State to which it belongs, so that the capital of the fund

shall remain forever andiminished. No portion of the fund or of the interest shall be applied directly or indirectly, under any pretense whatever, to the purchase, erection, preservation or repair of any building or buildings. But a sum not exceeding ten rer cent upon the amount received by any State may be expended for the purchase of lands for sites or experimental farms, whenever authorized by the

respective Legislatures of said States.

Mr. Morrill began his speech in support of the bill by saying, that no measure for years had received so much attention, so far as the fact can be proved by petitions from the various States, North and South, from State societies, from county socie-

ties and from individuals—petitions which came in almost every day in the session.

We expend millions to protect and promote commerce through lightbouses, coast surveys, improvement of harbors, and through our navy and naval academy. We make immense grants of lands to railroads to open new fields of internal trade. We secure to literary labor the protection of copyright. We encourage the growth and discipline of seamen through governmental bounties. We secure to ingenueus mechanics high profits by our system of copyright. We make munificent grants to secure general education in all the new States. But all direct encouragement to agriculture has been rigidly withheld. Ceres does not appear among the gods of our Ohmpus—she is only seen in a picture on one of our Treasury Notes.

While we are in advance of the world in many

of the useful arts, it is a humiliating fact that we are far in the rear of the best husbandry in Europe, and that our tendency is downward, not upward. prosperity and happiness of a large and populous

I. Upon the division of the land into small II. Upon the education of the proprietors of the

If it be true that the common mode of cultivating the soil in all parts of our country is so defective as to make the soil poorer year by year, it is a most deplorable fact, and a fact of national concern. If we are steadily impairing the natural productive-ness of the soil, it is a national waste, compensated only by private robbery. What are the facts? In New-England the pasture-fed stock is not on

the increase, and sheep-husbandry is gradually growing of less importance, excepting perhaps in Vermont and New-Hampshire. The wheat crop. once abundant, is now inconsiderable. The following table will exhibit something of the depreciation

of the crops in t	- Wheat-bush -		- Potatoes-bush -	
Connecticut	1840. 67,000 157,923 3,616 422,124	1850. 41,000 31,211 49 135,638 296,239 \$35,955	1840, 3,414,238 5,385,652 911,973 6,296,606 10,392,200 8,869,751	1850. 2,649 805 3,385,384 651,029 4,314,919 8,426,040 4,951,014
		-		

In many of the Southern States the decreasing

duction is equally marked:  Wheat, bush, 1840.  Tennessee 4,990.052  Kentucky 4,80,152  Georgia 1,801,830  Alabema 835,652	Wheat, bush. 1850. 1,619,385 2,142,622 1,088,534 294,044
Total12,612,726	5,141,796

These figures, after all proper allowances for errors and a short crep, establish conclusively that in all parts of our country important elements in the soil have been exhausted, and that its fertility, in spite of all improvements, is steadily sinking. The number of sheep in the State of New York had denumber of sheep in the State of New 100,000 less than creased so that there were nearly 300,000 less than thirty years ago. Within a period of there were thirty years ago. Within a period of five years the decrease has been nearly fifty per cent, while the decrease in the number of horses, cows and swine is above fifteen per cent. In 1845, the product of wheat was 13,391,770 bushels. has steadily declined since, until the product of the past year did not exceed 6,000,000 bushels. The average yield of corn per acre in 1844 was 24.75 per bushel, but in 1854 it was only 21.02 bushels.

The average crop of wheat in Virginia, Tennesec and North Carolina for 1850 was only seven bushele per acre; in Alabama and Georgia but five bushels per acre. And even the largest average crop o any State in the Union, that of Massachusetts, was but 16 bushels per acre. And this, with the leanest seil, proves her agricultural science to be far in advance of her sister States. While the crop of cotton in the new lands of Texas and Arkansas was 700 to 750 fb per acre, it was but 320 fb per acre in the older cultivated fields of South Carolina.

In Virginia, the crop of tobacco in 1850 was less than that of 1840 by over eighteen million pounds. No crop has proven more destructive to the fertility of the soil than the tobacco crop, and this staple commodity, unless a cheap and effective remedy can be found, must be either banished or it will banish the cultivators. In this State where tobacco, corn and wheat have been continued for a century, many districts are no longer cultivated. Liebig that from every acre of this land, there were removed in the space of one hundred years, twelve hundred pounds of alkalias in leaves, grain and straw. While the yield of wheat has increased in England to thirty bushels per acre, it has sunk to

seven in Virginia. Even in Ohio the wheat crop is already less remu-nerative than formerly, and fields long cultivated are given up to pasturage. In Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois, where so large an amount of grain is sold and carried off, instead of being fed out to stock, they are selling their lands by the bushel in the shape of wheat and corn, and that for a price utterly ruinous. Commerce, founded upon such agra cultural economy as this, must come to an end, although the folly will continue to be avenged on posterity even to the third and fourth generation.

The leading fact of a wide-spread deterioration of the soil stands out too boldly to be dealed. The great irreversible law of American agriculture appears in the constant and increasing diminution of products, without any advance prices. It follows, just in proportion, that capital is disappearing, and that labor receives a diminishing reward. Our country is growing debilitated, and we propagate the consumptive disease with all the energy of private enterprise and public

Many foreign States support a population vastly larger per square mile than we maintain, and hold their annual increase; but by the system of husbandry generally pursued here, the land is hell until it is robbed of its virtue, skmmied of its cream, and then the owner, selling his wasted field to some skin-flint neighbor, flies to fresh fields with the foul purpose to repeat the same spoliation; and this annual exodus which prevails over all the older States, and even begins upon the first settlements of the new States before their remoter borders have lost sight of the savage, painfully indicates that we have reached the maximum of population our land will support in the present state of our agricultural Our skill must be further developed, or economy. Our skill must be further developed, or here is our limit. The agriculturists have been, within a few years.

aroused to their own wants. The eager crowds which throng the annual fairs of our agricultural societies proclaim the universal hunger there is for a prefounder information touching that which mes home to their business and bosoms. They know there are mysteries clearly concerning them, and they demand of learning and science a solution. Let us have such colleges as may rightfully claim the authority of teachers to announce facts and fixed laws, and to scatter broadcast that knowledge which will prove useful in building up a great na-tion. The farmer and the mechanic require special schools and appropriate literature quite as much as any of the so-called learned professions. We need a careful, exact and systematized registration of experiments, such as can be made at thoroughly sci-entific institutions, and such as will not be made These tests and these tables, so furnished, will give us, when reported and collated, as provided for in this bill, a rational induction of priniples upon which we may expect to establish a proper science; and the more widely gathered are the facts, the sounder the science. Discoveries will not be trumpeted forth until they have received the sanction of a body less sanguine than the vendors of

We need to test the natural capability of soils and the power of different fertilizers; the relative value of different grasses for flesh, fat, and milk-giving purposes; the comparative value of grain, roots and bay for wintering stock; the value of a bushel of corn, cats, peas, carrots, potatoes or turnips, in pounds of beef, pork or mutton; deep plowing, as well as drainage; the vitality and deteriora-tion of seeds; breeds of animals; remedies for the

extate disease and for all tribes of insects destruc tive to cotton, wheat and fruit crops. These and many more are questions of scientific interest, even beyond their economical importance in the researches of the agriculturist.

Agricultural schools and colleges, in many por tions of Europe, are a marked feature of the age. In our own country the general want of such piaces of instruction has been so manifest that Stat cieties and individuals have attempted to supply it, though necessarily in stinted measure. The "plen-titul lack" of funds has retarded their maturity and usefulness; but there are some examples, like that of Michigan, liberally supported by the State, in the full tide of successful experiment. If this bill shall pass, institutions of the character required by the people will spring into life and not languish

from poverty and teglect.
In the highest civilized parts of Europe we find the governments slive to the wants of agriculture. They have established ministers of instruction, me del farms, experimental farms, botanical gardens, colleges, and a large number of secondary schools, with no other purpose than the improvement of the farms and farmers of the respective countries. The effect is in the largest degree favorable to the people and to increased production. In Prussia agricultural colleges and schools for the me-chanic arts and higher trades are liberally sustained. and with a much larger staff of professors than is common in the United States. In Saxony there are a number of experiment stations or experimental farms, with laboratories attached, and five or more schools exclusively for agriculture. There is no country in the world where agriculture and all branches of industry are pursued with more enter-prise and success than in this little monarchy. Bel-gium has its agricultural schools also, and great opportunities for general education are given, espe-cially in the larger towns. Here farming is con-ducted most on a scientific basis, so that Belgium. supporting a population of three hundred and thirty six to the square mile, in a climate inferior to that of Kentucky or Virginia, which average only twenty-six and twenty three to the square mile, is the first in rank as an agricultural State in Europe.

This preeminence is chiefly the result of scientific attention to manures.

France, from the time of Napoleon, has done much

for sgriculture; beet sugar, the mulberry, the grape, se well as mei no sheep and the Thibet goat, have received imperial attention. No expense is shirked in the cause of agricultural science. Her botanical gardens, chemical laboratories, physiological mu-seums and schools for instruction in the veterinary art surpass all others in existence, and, with her five agricultural colleges and almost one hundred agricultural schools, are rapidly elevating the farming population of the empire. Colleges and schools of agriculture are numerous in Great Britain, but their usefulness is greatly restricted on account of the limited attendance arising from the jealousies of caste. In Russia the cause of agriculture holds a deserved prominence. Of colleges, schools and special schools, devoted to agriculture, Russia maintains a greater number than any other nation

France only excepted.

Thus we behold the suffrages of all the wiser civilized nations in favor of the measure contemplated by the bill under consideration. If other nations advance, though we but pause, we are distanced. The country is believed to be overwhelmingly in favor of the establishment of these institutions. They are as much needed, and will be as gratefully accepted, by one section as by another. More than four-fifths of our population are engaged in agricultural and mecbanical employments.

Pass this measure, said Mr. Morrill in conclusion,

Pass this measure, and Mr. Morrin in conclusion, and you will have done—

"Something to enable the farmer to raise two blades of grass instead of one;

"Something for every owner of land;
"Something for all who desire to own land;
"Something for cheap scientific education;
"Something for every man who loves intelligence and not incorporate."

and not ignorance:
"Something to induce the farmers' sons and daugh-

ters to settle and cluster around the old homesteads;
"Something to remove the last vestige of pauperism from our land

"Something for peace, good order, and the better support of Christian churches and common schools; "Something to enable sterile railroads to pay divi-

dends;
"Something to enable the people to bear the enormous expenditures of the National Government;
"Something to check the passion of individuals, and of the nation, for indefinite territorial expansion and

of the nation, for indefinite territorial expansion and ultimate decreptude;

"Something to prevent the dispersion of our population, and to concentrate it around the best lands of the country—places hallowed by church spires, and mellowed by the influences of time—where the consumer will be placed at the door of the producer; and thereby

"Something to obtain higher prices for all sorts of serioulty at reductions, and

agricultural productions; and
"Something to increase the loveliness of the American landscape. Scientific culture is the sure precursor
of order and beauty."

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1858.

the labors of Penelope, in undoing one day what it took great pains to do the day before. On Saturlay last it repeatedly and emphatically affirmed its purpose to postpone the report of the Committee on Conference until the second Monday in May by four majority, and now it has revoked that decision by the same majority. What new light may have been discovered by the patriots who have thus suddeply turned their backs upon themselves has yet to be disclosed. The future historian will be puzzled to reconcile the record with any ideas of consistency or integrity. The defection of Cox and Lawrence of Ohio has taken no one by surprise. It was fully anticipated in my last letter, and has been foreshadowed here for more than a week past, notwithstanding their earnest protestations to the contrary. They wil now share the fate which is in reserve for their colleagues who led the way in this act of barefaced desertion. Let them go. We are well rid of such excrescences. The change of Judge Chapman of Pennsylvania has occasioned some real regret, considering his personal character and previous fidelity. But he too can be spared. Mr. Trippe of Georgia was a recruit who came in quite unexpectedly, and who departed with as little ceremony as he entered. after having first stigmatized English's scheme as taking the "back track." Mr. Hill of Georgia, who moved the postponement till the second Mon day in May, went away unpaired, leaving his motion to take care of itself.

On Wednesday the issue will be tried, and all the

indications point unmistakably to the result. The Administration has conquered an opposition in its own ranks that it was necessary to success to con-quer, and that great institution the Deficiency bill has soothed the computations visitings of these who were troubled in spirit at the weight of responsibility before them. Mr. English saw his way clear when it was once out of the way, and strange to tell, not an hour before. The member from In diana deserves to rank as something of a prophet too. On Friday last, when his first movement was defeated, and the signs looked manspicious, he crossed over to the Republican side of the House, and was there met with the suggestion that after all his contrivance might not pass. He answered with much feeling that it would, and offered to bet \$5,000 on the result, saying that he had won that much on the last Presidential election. Mr. Sherman of Ohio, who was sitting a quiet spectator of his little scene, merely remarked: "English, you

appear to have more money than most of us. A case of very great importance, and involving immense interests, will be decided in the Supreme Court to-morrow. It is that of the United States gainst Fossett, for the quicksilver mines in Cali fornis, which have been worked for years past he Forbes & Co., and it is said with a profit approaching nearly a million annually. The deeree of the Court will be in favor of the United States, thus eversing the judgment of the Court below. Most extraordinary means were employed here to prevent an appeal in this case, and political influence invoked in every channel that was likely to be effect. ive. The right now claimed and held by Forbes & Co. will be next contested. INDEX

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, April 27, 1858. The Council Bluffs Land specuation of Messre,

Bright Fuglish and Foley, came up again in the House this morning. Mr. Hughes of Indiana, soon after the session opened, rose to a question of privilege and offered a resolution of censure upon Gen. Spinser of N. Y. for endeavoring yesterday to impeach the character of members of the House, under pretense of getting up a Committee of Investigation. The Republican members allowed him to proceed without interruption, because his resolunon necessarily embodied Gen. Spinner's resolution, and would thus bring that before the public and place it upon the records of the House. For the same reason they allowed him to spread himself in a characteristic speech of much bitterness, under some portions of which his more discrete associates. grew restive, while the Republicans requested him to go on and display himself to his full extent. The gist of his defense of Mr. Bright (English and Foley e said could take care of themselves) was that the Conneil Bluffs transaction was a fair and ordinary business one, which the vile and malicious press was striving to distort for partisan purposes. willing, he said, that a committee should be raised to investigate the charges against Messrs. English and Foley, and to investigate his own charge against

Gen. Spinner.

Mr. English made what he termed a plain and unvarnished statement of the facts in the case. He and his colleagues, Foley and Bright, had located certain land belonging to themselves and to some of their constituents, through the agency of the General Land office, and in a strictly legal and usual manner. There was no favoritism, nor was there anything of an underband nature in the transaction. anyming of an undergand nature in the transaction.

It was all fair and square. In conclusion, he said
that if any man on this floor or elsewhere, imputed
to him any other than worthy and patriotic motives for his course on the Kansas bill, he would desounce him as a liar, a poltroon and a coward. Gen. Spinner in reply said he was not satisfied with the gentleman's explanation. He thought the

transaction was wrong.

Mr. Campbell of Obio said he should move to lay the whole matter on the table. It was evident from the statement of Gen. Spinner that his motives for offering the resolutions were good. He comply to know whether or not Senators and simply to know whether or not Senators and Members of Congress were to have, through the Land ffice, advantages in purchasing public lands which were denied to common people. At the end of Mr. Campbell's speech the whole subject was laid upon

the table with little opposition.

Mr. English's statement does not touch the point eally involved in the question raised by The Burlington Hauckeye, and which Gen. Spinner wished to have investigated. He admitted his share in the transaction at Council Bluffs, maintaining, by assertion, that it was a fair and ordinary business matter, with nothing unusual about it. The charge in The Burlington Haukeye was that the lands were located by special favor, out of office hours, at times when ordinary purchasers had not access to the office, and thus to their disadvantage, by giving Bright, English and Foley a preference against which the law and the practice of the Land Office which the law and the practice of the Land Orice sedulously guards. The charge is, in other words, that when the Land Office at Council Bluffs opened on the 23d of February last, the quantity of land open to the competition of the public was 6,200 acres less than it was when the office closed the preceding day. In the interval, out of office hours, 6,200 acres had been located in the names of Messrs. Bright, English and Foley, to the detriment of the actual settlers, who could only locate during regular office hours. Mr. English did not deny the irregu-

larity of the proceeding in this point.
Your remark in THE TRIBUNE of yesterday, that had Mr. Howard accepted Mr. Hill's amendment, when made, the postponement of English's bill would have been decided on Saturday, may, I fear, be construed into an imputation on that gentleman. He did accept Mr. Hill's amendment when first made, but Mr. Hill subsequently modified it, and the Speaker decided that the modification was an an endment to an amendment. Hill's first motion was to postpone to next Thursday week, which Mr. Howard accepted. Finally, amid much confusion, Hill changed the time to the second Monday in May.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, April 27, 1858. All the false pretenses which have been set up by English and his followers, that the Lecompton Constitution was in any manner, shape or form submitted by the new "swindle" which has been reported from the Conference, were effectually exploded in the Senate to-day by the clear, frank and emphatic exposition of Mr. Hunter, a member of the Committee, and one of the foremost leaders of the Democracy. He said distinctly and repeatedly, in the most positive and unqualified terms, that the bill of the Committee, like that of the Senate, affirmed the validity and authority of the Lecompton Constitution; that both acknowledged its binding obligation; and nothing else was or intended to be submitted but a modification of the land ordinance. The only difference between the two bills was the fundamental condition that the Government property should not be taxed, is consideration of which three millions of acres of land were granted, if the ordinance should be accepted. Both acts fully and entirely on principle do not recognize the right to submit the Constitution to the people, regarding it as perfect from the hands of the Convention. This bill merely said to the people of Kansas: You must cede away the texing power over the property of the United States, as a condition of admission: if not you must stay out for three or four years, until the popula-tion was equal to the ratio of representation. tion was equal to the ratio of representation. Heree the ordinance and nothing else was submitted. We do no such thing, said Mr. Hunter, as submit the Constitution, and intend no such thing. Other motives may operate on those who accept it, but the bill authorizes no such inference. A modified contract, from that proposed in the ordinance accumpanying the Lecompton Constitution, was offered, and nothing else. Congress had no power to change or pass on it in any other form. And the to change or pass on it in any other form. And the consistency of himself and his friends was fully pre-

served when they rejected any submission.

This was the substance of what Mr. Hunter said, and almost in his very words. It conforms prewate before the report was made, and literally with the view taken in my telegraphic dispatches. Mr. Green and Mr. Stephens entertain similar sentiments, and they ought to be able to interpret the work of their own hands. Mr. Hunter is a highminded and honorable man, and does not mean that either his own people or the country shall be cheated y any artifice. He is determined, too, that North-rn doughfaces shall swallow the pill labeled with Lecompton, pure and simple. After this exposition let us hear no more about the submission of the Constitution, from any quarter. That farce has een played quite long enough, and while it may uit the purposes of English and his tail, it ough not to be permitted to mislead honest men who laim any intelligence or penetration.

If any portion of the Anti-Lecompton Democrats. If any portions who have professed to sustain principle in this struggle, yield now, they will "eat dirt" with their eyes open. There is no escape for them, come what may. The terms of degredation are written out heldly, and they must abjectly accept them, with all the disgraceful consequences. It is now said that Chapman, Adrian, Cox, and Lawrence will recede from their talse position, and vote together. Let us from their false position, and vote together. Let us be perso, for their own sakes. The appeals made to Shorter and Stalworth of Alabama, by the Administration, have not been without effect, and it is possible they may recede. The result therefore is still involved in some doubt; though it ought to be conclusively settled after Hunter's speech.

As the time is fast approaching when nominations to fill the seats of most of the Northern members will be made it is important to keep in view the

will be made, it is important to keep in view the experience and efficiency which many of them have acquired from past service in the public councils. It has been the wise policy of the South to retain its capable men as long as they desired seats in Congress. This policy has exerted immense influ-ence in both Houses, and made Toombs, Stephens. and others, the effective managers and leaders that they are. One of the great elements of power which they have so successfully wielded is thorough acquaintance with parliamentary pracwhich of itself confere great advantage in the direction of public affairs. Be-side this, there is a certain prestige attached to continued presence here, which impresses itself strongly upon the "freshmen" who enter Congress. There are few members of the Opposition who hav hestowed the serious attention upon this important branch of legislative knowledge, that it really de-serves, and most from the habit which has grown up in the Free States, of changing their represents ves every second or third term of service, a habit which would be more honored in the breach than the observance. Had the politic Southern system been adepted, of rewarding integrity and fidelity there would be fewer dough-faces in Congress to day. Among the parliamentarians on the Republican side of the House, Mr. Israel Washburn of Maine has been always noted for promptness vigi-lance and usefulness. Devoting himself faithfully to the interests of his constituents, and beartily to that of the great cause with which he is identified, he is ever to be found at the post of duty, and ready to take a full share of every task and responsibility. Such men cannot be spared at this crisis, when proved men are so much needed. There are others qually meritorious, who will elaim attention individually hereafter. My present purpose was to throw out the general idea for reflection, as one of much moment to future organization and success. There are, to be sure, scores of exceptionable cases, as there is much force in the theory of rotation.

Upon the application of counsel, the judgment of

the Supreme Court in the case of The United States against Fossatt involving the quicksilver mines in California, was postponed until Friday—it is now understood, in order to leave the case open for future litigation, upon the question of survey. Although The Union to-day contradicts the state-

ment of The Intelligencer in regard to a new loan o thirty millions, it leaves the point of an application to Congress for a discretionary issue of Treasury Notes, contingent entirely upon the demands of the Departments for money between July and Decem-ber next, which are to be reported within ten days. It requires only half an eye to see, that with the present revenue from customs, and the approaching bsorption of the remaining Treasury Notes by the Deficiency bill, that a loan of some kind must be asked, the credit of the Government must be im asked, the credit of the Government must be im-paired, or an extra session of Congress must be called. There are visible alternatives. A five per cent loan atten or twenty years, would command a premium in market, with the immense accumu-lation of idle specie and deposits in the banks. It would release so much laid-up capital and distribute it through the channels of trade heside relievant the Secretary from the netrade, beside, relieving the Secretary from the ne cessity of "shinning" Wall street. Besides, if the Administration is to be carried on by borrowing, as now seems probable, the country is entitled to see the public debt regularly recorded, however inconthe public debt regularly recorded, however incon-venient its increase may be to Presidential aspirants in the Cabinet. Treasury notes are mere make-shifts for raising the wind. They do not appear as a lean would, and, therefore, allow the opportunity of dodging responsibility. If Mr. Cobb wants of dodging responsibility. If Mr. Cobb wants money let him ask for an old-fashioned loan, or get INDEX. no other relief.

A NATIONAL LINE OF STEAMSHIPS. Correspondence of The Philadelphia Press.

Correspondence of The Philadelphia Press.

WASHINGTON, April 27, 1858.

The Hon. Wm. G. Whiteley of Delaware has devoted much time in perfecting a scheme which he will soon bring to the attention of Congress, and which is designated as a National Line of Steamships. It is prop sed—and the proposal is backed by Ambrose W. Thempsen for himself and associates—to form a line of first-class steamships, to carry the United States real, once in each week, between the Atlantic ports of the United States and the port of Liverpool, Frgland. The departures to be weekly from New-York, rhiladelphia (in the Winter season from New-castle if the Upper Delaware be closed with ice), Baltimore, touching at Norfolk and Savannah, on the same day, as follows:

Ist of the month, New-York to Liverpool.

inc day, as follows:

1st of the month, New-York to Liverpool,
1th of the month, Philad-liphis to Liverpool,
15th of the menth, Baltimore and Norfolk to Liverpool,
22d of the month, Savannah to Liverpool.

These steamers, by alternating their trips, would in each voyage return to a different point than that of their departure. Thus the one sailing on the 1st from New York would arrive on the 12th at Liverpool, remain until the 22d, and sail on that day for Baltimore; arrive there on the 3d, and sail on the 15th for Liverpool.

Sth. The one sailing from Philadelphia on the St sth. The one saming from Financipian on the set would arrive in Liverpool on the 20th; sail on the 1sth of the next month for Savannah; arrive on the 1sth, and again sail for Liverpool on the 22th.

15th. The one sailing from Baltimore on the 15th would arrive on the 29th at Liverpool; sail on the 8th of the next month for New-York; arrive on the 20th, at the sail of the lext.

and be ready for the next regular departure on the 1st of the next month for Livetpool.

22d. The one sailing from Savannah on the 22d, would arrive on the 4th of next month at Livetpool; sail theree on the 15th for Philadelphia; arrive there on the 29th, and sail on the following 8th for Livergool.

Thus it will be seen that the regular days of depart

Thus it will be seen that the regular days of departure would be kept up, while an interchange of ports would tend to give greater efficiency to the line.

The line to coreist of six steamers, of 3,000 tuns each, built of iron, having six water tight compartments below the berth deck, and not less than three connertments above the deck. The engines, boilers, and coal-bunkers to be in one separate and distinct compartment, disconnected from all others except in the extension of the pumps, and so arranged, that in case of accident to any other por-

so arranged, that in case of accident to any other por-tion of the vessel, the fires could not be extinguished thereby, or the machinery or pumps be prevented from working.

The vessels to be propelled by the screw, with steam power to make them equal in speed to the best side-wheel mail steamers engaged in transatiantic

The steamers to be constructed in such manner as

to make them readily available for transport-ships to the Government, and also capable of carrying mod-erate batteries when required. erate batteries when required.

The mail pay to be \$15,600 for each complete voyage out and back.

In this scheme the inducement is held out that, if

In this scheme the inducement is held out that, it the Government grant its aid for the object proposed, the building of iron ships will be commenced upon this side of the Atlantic, to compete with the shops of the Clyde, from which have gone out iron screw steamers for the commerce of every sea.

Col. Florence has prepared another scheme, the details of which I will give at an early day.

In a letter, dated Washington City, April 16th

Joshua R. Giddings saye:

It is due to my junior associates to say, there is less intoxication and less appearance of vice among the members of the present, than of any Congress with whem I have associated. It is now the fifta month of the Sersian, and I have neither seen nor heard of in-toxicating fiquors being brought to the capitol or kept there; nor, with two exceptions, have I seen any member on the Republican side of the Hall give evi-dance of intoxication. It is true, however, that most of observation with whom I have conversed, uniform-ly attribute this improvement, in a great degree, to the fact, that almost every member is attended by some portion of his family; and that man has lived to little purpose who, at the age of forty, fails to notice the salutary and sanctifying influence of the domestic circle. That member of Congress must be deprayed indeed, who can be seduced from the path of rectitude the Session, and I have neither seen nor heard while surrounded by the holy influences of the family circle. Northern society is already exerting its mera power upon Washington City, and upon the councils of the nation.

## FIRES.

FIRE IN MARION AND CROSET STREETS-DESTRUCTION

Yesterday morning between 8 and 9 o'clock a fire broke out in the three-story frame building rear of No. 85 Crosby street, occupied on the first floor by George Cassicy, manufacturer of sarsaparilla, second floor by M. Hendricks as a carpenter-shop, and thin i floor by J. W. Smith, timer. In consequence of the large amount of lumber and other inflammable material.

large amount of lumber and other inflammable material on the premises, the flames spread rapidly and communicated to the adjoining buildings on either eide, causing great excitement among the occupants.

The dwelling house of Mr. G. P. Jolly, No. 85 Croeby street, next took fire, but was saved from destruction through the exertions of the firemen. There ethe flames communicated to the smoke-house and shed in the rear of No. 52 Marion street, belonging to John McChain & Co., provision dealers. The firemen were untiring in their exertions, and by their maited efforts soon gained the upperment of the conmaited efforts seen gaited the uppermost of the con-fisgration. The losses and insurances are as follows: Loss of Mr. Hendricks about \$1,000; no insurance Loss of Mr. Cassidy, \$1,500; no insurance. Loss of Mr. Snuth, \$100; to insurance. The furniture in the dw-ling-house of Mr. Jolly was considerably damaged by water; insured for \$200 in the Jefferson in The fourth and was hadden. No perance Company. The front and rear building No. 85 Crosby street, were cwied by John Mix, who estimates has loss at about \$1,200 fully insured. The front and rear buildings No. 85 Crosby street, occapied by Mrs. Stuart as a boarding-house, was demi-

aged by fire and water to the amount of see, and for \$4,000 in the North American land. Company. The buildings belong to the Dusaber estate, and are damaged to the extent of about \$1,000, increased for \$7,000 in the North American lands Company. The smoke-house was damaged to the amount of \$200; insured in the East River Insurance Company.

Company.

The fire is said to have originated through the ease lessness of a boy who was boiling glue on the stora-pine in wast forty-third street.

Yesterday afternoon a fire occurred in the fram-building No. 331 West Forty-taird street, owned and occupied by John Coyle; damage \$25.

A FIENDISH ACT.—On Saturday morning a sate attempted to create a panic among the children in the Primary School-House on Porter street, East Botton by shouting "fire" in the building. He was partially successful in the attempt, and for a moment or two the children were greatly excited, but the presence of mind of the teachers prevented any stampeds toward the doors. An officer near by, who heard the cries of the children, rushed in and assisted in calming therefore, There were about three hundred children in the school at the time.

[Boston Courier.

fears. There were about three hundred children is the school at the time.

Vermost Horses.—Mr. Hill, owner of the late famous "Vermott Black Hawk," has sold within a few days two premising sons of this horse, as follows: "Oscoela," dark chestrut in color, to G. A. Ansen, esq., of Orwell, Vt., for \$2,600; "Kossuth," black is color, to L. L. Church, esq., of West Fairlee, Vt., for \$1,740.

## CITY ITEMS.

The anniversary of the American Tract Society will be held in the Reformed Dutch Church, Lafayette place (corner of Fourth street, near Broadway), Rev-York, May 12. Business meeting at 9 o'clock a m. The house will be reserved for the male Lafe Kembers and Life Directors, who will be admitted by ticket. which should be obtained as early as practicable, and may be had at the Tract House, No. 150 Nassan street, any day previous to the anniversary. Both Life Men. bers and Directors are entitled to vote in the election of the Board of Officers, and in the transaction of my business that may come before the Society. At the close of the business meeting of the Society the Board of Directors and Life Directors will elect an Executive Committee by ballot, after which the public religious exercises will commence.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.-A Matinée will be given this afternoon. In the evening Mendelssohn's orstoric of Elijah.

Last evening Miss Teresa Esmonde lectured to a large and fashionable audience assembled in Mesart Hall, on the Poets and Poetry of Ireland. The discourse was mainly devoted to a criticism on Dr. Charles Mackey for the indifference that gentleman had shown in his lectures in the recognition of the merits of the Irish poets.

Mr. Willis's Musical World is refreshed and enhanced by the introduction to it of serial publications of music for the entire prayer book of the Roiscopal Church, which will be alternated every other w number with other music. This music alone is worth the price of subscription, not counting the criticisms of Mr. Willis, Mr. Hodges, and other regular and emisent contributors. Mr. A. H. 'Davenport's benefit at Wallack's, les

night, drew together an audience most flattering to the beneficiary, both in numbers and character. was vociferously called out, and made a brief and medest acknowledgment in words befitting the eccasion.

The exhibition of Simpson's picture of the "Resterstion of the Arctic Ship Resolute" will close en urday, May 1, at the gallery of W. Schaus, No. 629

MECHANICS' CLUB-AMERICAN INSTITUTE.-Angular meeting of this body was held last evening at the recome of the American Institute, No. 351 Broadway. Thomas A. Stillman, esq., presided. The subject for rooms of the American Institute, No. 351 Br discussion was the use of steam. The history of the various kinds of high-pressure engines was given in the general discussion, and it was generally agreed that there was an economy resulting from the use of steam under a high pressure. The amount of pressure which could be used with economy, however, was a point upou which a variety of opinions were expres

The cattle market yesterday disappointed a good many people, both buyers and sellers. From the fact secertained by all those in the secret of cattle movements, that over five thousand head of beeves were leaded this way from the West, and liable to be thrown upon the market this week, it was anticipated that the butchers would have a jolly time. In this they were mistaken, as will be seen by the market reports, the price remaining about the same as it was a that is 10 cents a pound for the best beef, with a fee extras at 10 c., and a good many of fair quality at ?9 gic. This was all owing to the fact that Boston buyers, grasiers and others, took off so many of the cattle that only 3,200 reached the city in all the week, only 2,400 of which were at Bulls Head yesterday, so that owner and cattle brokers were able to maintain the rates of

the previous week, and in some cases exceed them. REAL ESTATE.—The following sales were made yes-terday at the Merchants' Exchange by A. J. Bleecker,

Son & Co.:
2 story frame house and lot on N. 5th st., W. of 5th st.,
Williamsburgh.
2 story frame house and lot on N. 5th st., W. of 5th st.,
Williamsburgh.
2 houses and lot in Graniteville, near Port Richmond, S. I.

Died, on the 18th inst., at her residence is Clistee place, in this city, Anne, reliet of the late Richard V. Morris, aged 85 years. The death of this excellent lady deserves more than a passing notice, as she belonged to a class of matrons now extinct, a type of the mothers and grandmothers of our republic. On more link of the past with the present has been severed by the death of this venerable lady, who combined it her character all the Christian virtues and graces, with the accomplishments and polish of a high bred women,

rendering her an object of profound love and respect to a large circle of relatives and friends. As the shades of death gathered around her the faculties of her misd appeared to brighten, illumining with beauty the even ing of a long and well-spent life, we trust to be renewe "in the light of the perfect day," Mrs. Morris was the granddaughter of Mr. Walton, who built the house so long known as the old "Walter House," in Pearl street. Her husband, the late Richard V. Morris, served in the says, attaining the rank of Commodore. He was the youngest son of Lewis Morris of Morrisania, one of the igners of the Declaration of Independence. The three older brothers of Richard V. Morris followed the noble example of their father, and gave their personal services to their country during the Revolutionary straggle. The eldest of these brothers, Lewis Morris, served for a time as Aid-de-Camp to Gen, Sultivan, but afterward entered the family of Gen. Greene, and was with the officer during his brilliant campaign in the Carolina.

After the close of the war, Col. Lewis Morris became a resident of South Carolina, where he acquired very extensive possessions. The second brother, Jacob Meris, was appointed Aid to Gen. Charles Lee, and was present at the gallant defense of Fort Moultree, where he greatly distinguished himself. He was also present at the battle of Monmouth as a volunteer. After the close of the stirring scenes of the Revolution, Major Jacob Morris, having a taste for the quiet pursuits of agriculture, moved on to a tract of land known as the Morris Patent," in Otsego County, and was one of the pioneers and first settlers of that County, then a wildertess. William Morris, the youngest of these three brothers, though but a youth, entered the army as a Lieutenant of Artillery, and honorably served during the war. Richard V. Morris, ou arriving at manbood, was engaged in the service of his county, and has long since been gathered with his patriot brothers to the tomb, leaving his amisble lady to survive bim many years, and to die the last reflet of an eventful generation.

The morning train on the Ede Railroad, which is due at Jersey City at I o'clock, was detained about half so